

ROSEBUD GOES TO THE PLAY

AND LEARNS THE STORY OF THE TRUNK THAT WENT WRONG.

Betty's Discovery of Her Missing Clothes brings out an incident of the San Francisco earthquake and Sir Crawford's remarks at Women's Actions.

Lady McGowan is one of these women who likes a man, who likes to make a cocktail for her or Sir Crawford, and he never gets over the wonder that she can mix them—who likes to do good and she has any one know it, but who gets fighting mad over so much as a suggestion as to her dressing or her dresses.

[Rosebud was talking about the ways of women, a subject in which he takes an interest that shows signs of becoming steadily less impersonal, and as usual when that topic is up, found his illustration in his ward, Lady McGowan.]

Sir Crawford says to me one day, "Betty boxed her maid's ears to-day for misbehaving one of her frocks, so she is buttoning up her own shoes now. Really, Rosebud," he says to me, "I got anxious about what that charming wife of mine did with all her old duds, for she buys enough to dress a court."

"When I found out how she disposed of the garments she lays aside I found out another reason for considering her the finest old Dutch on earth."

I could have told Sir Crawford all about it, for Miss Jane told me. They, Miss Jane and Betty, hunt up nice women who can't afford to dress as they should, to be treated as they should, and they find ways of getting Betty's clothes into their hands without hurting their feelings.

But you'd think, to know the way Lady Crawford goes on about her dresses, that she'd rather part with a finger than an old apron. I mind me of a happening that will show you what I mean.

About a year ago, or a little less, for it was soon after the San Francisco disaster, Sir Crawford comes over here and says he'd take breakfast.

"Betty won't be fit to speak to all day," he says, "because one of the trunks we got away from San Francisco turns out not to be filled with the new gowns she got there, but with a lot of cheap trash that looks jolly well like we were going to give charity."

Crawford, you'll understand, has a big fruit orchard in California. Betty went out with him for the blossom season, and they were in San Francisco when the disaster came. Betty made him stop over while she shopped, for she'd found a store there that imported the kind of things she likes to wear.

A little shrew, I'd say, just a bit gay, but they suit her.

These were all packed in one big trunk, and when the earthquake turned them out of the Palace Hotel not fire nor quake nor falling walls could budge my Lady McGowan till she saw that trunk put on a carriage Crawford hired for \$50, to send to some friend out on the hills, and she said, "You know the stories of those days. The world does. I need tell you only this—that friend's house took fire, and Betty's trunk with other things was hustled out onto a vacant lot."

Other people were juggling their goods there too. The next day Sir Crawford paid \$100 for a truck, got his luggage over the bay and they came home. But one trunk was wrong.

A month after that, Betty, Miss Jane, Sir Crawford and I went to see a new show at a Broadway theatre. I had a box.

About the middle of the first act in sweeps a woman and throws every one else on the stage into the shade with an evening gown that made every woman in the audience sit up sharp.

Betty gives a gasp and, as I'm a single man, begins climbing over the box rail for the stage. Miss Jane pulled her back.

"For God's sake, Betty!" whispered her husband, thinking his good wife had gone doty. "What is it?"

"That creature has on my gown!" gasps Betty.

We all sat silent a moment, wondering what had gone wrong with her mind. Sir Crawford spoke first, trying to jolly her, you could see, but he was well frightened.

"Of course, my dear," says he, "that's one of my favorite tricks. Herrmann taught it to me. I bury a blooming gown out by the Golden Gate, make a pass—Presto!—it turns up on Broadway nicely fitted to a new soubrette."

"You are talking nonsense, Crawford," she says. "That's my gown."

Well, in the next act the new soubrette nearly knocks the audience's eyes out by flashing on in what women call an afternoon gown that looked like a picture.

Betty turned to us with a moan.

"This is no joke," she says. "That busy has my San Francisco wardrobe. The gown, the slippers, the stockings are mine. Call the police!"

Crawford was getting so nervous he couldn't sit still; Miss Jane was white with fright, and I was trying to think if ever I'd seen Betty's father out of his head. I had. But Betty only took one glass of wine at dinner before the programme.

"Next is a street scene," she muttered. "If she has that frock on I'll go to her dressing room and scratch her eyes out."

"I think we'd better go home, Betty," says Miss Jane, who, you'll remember, was Betty's teacher in the old days.

"Jolly good idea," says Crawford. "Get some fresh air; get a bite to eat; we'll all feel better."

"Go, if you like," says Betty. "I'll wait to see if the brazen thing wears that frock—if this beauty act ever ends."

Lady McGowan is one of the kind of women who have their own way in their world. It's some so with men, but more so with women, that they never let their own will with what you may call emphasis have their will. It helps in the case of a woman if she's pretty. There's none prettier than my ward.

We walked.

Well, sir, the women in that audience couldn't help it. When that soubrette walked on in the next act they fairly blistered their gloves applauding.

It was the frock. I'm only a man and can tell you nothing about it. But the little soubrette was heartened by the applause and made good. The play was a success.

"Send for the police this instant or I'll scream!" says Betty, her eyes blazing as she saw the woman. "Frock, hat, gloves, boots, parasol—the only ones imported—oh! This is horrible!"

I slipped out to the manager. He was busy with a swarm of speculators who had seen the hit and were buying up the house for the next week. I knew him well.

"Send word to Miss Pacht. I'd like to have her join a party of ladies and gentlemen at supper," I said.

The answer came back: "Must decline. Sorry, haven't a rag to wear."

I sent a note to her myself, saying that the supper would be in a private house; that it was personally important that she

should attend; that she need not fear the least embarrassment.

The answer came back: "I fear I understand. I can explain. I will come."

I left Sir Crawford's carriage at the stage door, told his footman who to bring. He was wise man.

At home Betty stormed, but promised that she would say nothing until the actress had had a chance to explain.

"There's a story and she can explain," I said, "or she would not come."

We were sitting around the table, waiting, when that footman announced:

"A woman, poorly—yes, shabbily—dressed entered, leading a little girl by the hand. The woman was pale, trembling, half frightened, half defiant; the child was pale and—and something else."

"I suppose you sent for me," began the woman, "to explain—"

Betty jumped to her feet and fairly threatened.

"That child looks hungry! Are you hungry?"

The little girl's eyes were fixed on a big dish of handsome fruit, some Sir Crawford had expressed on from his place out there.

"Yes, ma'am, please, I am," replied the child before the mother could hush it with her hand at its mouth.

The little one was about the age of Betty's oldest.

You should have seen Betty then!

Her father and I once owned and ran a faro game in Arizona. No man ever lost a cent there who didn't have an equal chance with the bank, barring the percentage on splits. That's the profits of honest faro dealers.

But there was a gang of pikers there who had had lower. They were grouchy. They annoyed us and the game by their back talk. When he could stand it no longer Betty's father jumped into the gang and I had to follow him. It was whirlwind work, but we got no more back talk.

Betty reminded me of that then. Half the servants in the house were waiting on that youngster in half an instant with Betty mothering and "poor dear"ing her.

"I was playing in a light opera at the Tivoli," she said, "earning a good salary and easily supporting my child—and my husband. I had saved some money to come on here to New York, for a manager who had seen my work intimated that he could use me."

When the earthquake came I caught up my baby and ran into the street. My husband—I never saw him again or the money I had saved.

"I packed into a new big trunk I'd just bought to travel with my stage wardrobe, and some of the stage hands the next day carried it out to a vacant lot on the hills, where we slept that night."

A lady I knew when—before I was married—found me and took me and my trunk to a house of some friends. I said I thought I could get work here and they got the money for our fares.

"I rented a cheap room here, for I had only a few dollars left, and went at once to the manager who had seen my work, and asked for an engagement."

"He said at once he had just the part for me. Then he looked at the poor dress I had on—this one—and asked how I was off for costumes."

"I said I thought I could make one or two of my dresses do with a little renewing, and asked him for an advance."

"He laughed and said it was hard enough on him to have to costume the chorus and the extra girls; principals must dress themselves."

"I went to my room disheartened, for I knew that what would hardly do for a reproduction at the Tivoli would not do at all for a new production on Broadway."

"I opened the trunk then for the first time, more to get some fresh things for baby than in any hope for myself—and—such a wardrobe as I had only dreamed of."

"There were plenty of things in the trunk to show who it belonged to, and there was all the more reason I should want to return the beautiful things to the owner, for the friends who got the money to help me in San Francisco told me it was donated 'to help some poor woman,' by Lady McGowan."

"How could I find her? Who was she? Where? Besides, I knew that with that wardrobe I could ace the engagement, and—and my baby was hungry."

"First I wrote to my San Francisco friends to tell Lady McGowan, wherever she might be, that I would pay for the wardrobe; then I wrote to the manager accepting the part. And I will pay for the wardrobe as a success and a success."

The woman stopped when Betty went over to her and putting her arm around her neck turned her head so that she could see in the next room what I'd seen from the first.

Betty's little girl had waked up, heard the talk, crept down stairs with a doll in her arms, found another little girl her own age there, and the two kiddies were purring and crooning over the doll as motherly as ever you please.

Betty kept the mother and daughter with her for a couple of weeks, while the actress was getting settled a bit in her work. But she did a kinder thing than that; she let the woman pay for the wardrobe, as much a week, as businesslike as you please.

"I didn't want Betty to let the woman pay her," says Sir Crawford, "but damn it I know women," he says.

CHANCE TO BE GARROTED.

Cuban Executioner Offered Visitors a Trial With His Pet Machine.

Executions for capital offenses in Cuba are by the garrote. The present executioner in Havana in the carcer is a life prisoner, who gets \$17.50 for each execution.

He takes personal pride in the garrote, which is a very simple affair, much less imposing even than the electric chair. The room in which justice is done is very small and very sombre.

The garrote is up on a little platform, all painted in black. The prisoner is seated in a chair, the band is fitted about his neck and a single turn of the lever completes the operation.

Giving a private view to some Americans, the executioner showed with simple pride how nicely fitted the apparatus was and how easy it was to operate. He invited an interpreter to any one of them who wished to make a trial of the device. Then he grinned maliciously when the offer was refused.

On one occasion recently the executioner refused to do his work without pay in advance. There was no way of overcoming the objection, and as he couldn't get out to spend the money first the jail officials had to come to his terms.

Cargoes Sailors Don't Like.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat. Sugar, pine lumber and coffee are three cargoes what oughter never be carried," said the sailor. "They put a shellback of his food. They make him wuss'n' sick."

A pine cargo soaks the ship and its contents in treacherous smells, so that the very drinking water tastes as if there was rosin in it. Sugar cargoes ferment, and the fumes coming down and night from the hold causes the damnedest headache you can think of.

But coffee is the worst of all. A coffee cargo gives the ship's hold a stink that even its tea is a sickening coffee taste."

FAULTS OF THE PERIOD ROOM

STYLES THAT ARE NOT SUITED TO MODERN WAYS OF LIVING.

Not Intended, Is the Answer, for the Small House, but Attractive in the Residence With Apartments Intended for Show.

"Mixed" Rooms—Progress Ignored.

Shall it be the period room for the new house, or shall it be the modern compromise for this strictly artistic style? For several seasons the period room remained most popular with decorators. The number of men and women who have gone into decoration during the last few years has greatly increased. They have from preference devoted themselves to the period rooms, as they offer the decorator the best opportunity for the display of his skill.

The result has been a great number of rooms reproducing as exactly as slavish imitation can the rooms of the eighteenth and even the seventeenth century, whether these happened to be English in the style of Chippendale, Sheraton or Adam, or French in the manner of Louis XVI, or XV, or of the Empire. Most of the Empire rooms all were planned more than a decade ago.

He has something as artistic as a beautiful picture or a porcelain. Of course the owner of a small house would be foolish to have his only room done in the style of a Louis XV. He would be ridiculous. In the same way the Adam rooms, which should be little used. On the other hand there is no more beautiful model for a room, when either they be living room, dining room or hallway. And Colonial bedrooms are more appropriate to our way of life than any other style of room. They are artistic little museums, forming very interesting reminders of our national life."

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING.

Frau von Papp is the first woman to qualify as a motor car driver in Berlin. She passed a severe police test and will be the first woman to drive a motor car in Berlin.

The objection to period rooms," said a decorator who has not confined himself to this class of work, "is that one must for the sake of correctness adhere to the progress that the world has made during several generations in comfort. The heavy, roomy chairs of velvet or leather turned up by the best of our manufacturers to-day are superior to anything that ever was invented so far as they are able to make a man comfortable. They are comfortable as well as the security that comes from knowing that they are not going to crack or crack or do anything else concerning things that happen to antiques or reproductions of antiques."

Take for instance furniture of the Adam or the Louis periods. Be it built ever so strongly there is no propriety in such furniture unless it is decorated in light shades of silk, satin or tapestry. That style was never worked and women lived an artificial life entirely different from their existence to-day. Imagine the propriety of a man who calls on a rainy afternoon and has to sit on a *chaise longue* covered with Aubusson tapestry in a design of light colors; curiously enough, the ground of yellow roses. Naturally furniture of such apartments fits them only for the most formal use. The period room in its most perfect form is suited only to the house that has several apartments, and the Adam or the French room is intended only for the most formal use.

Or take an Empire room. The use of Empire furniture was never very well understood in this country by the women who could afford to buy most of it. I have seen rooms so crowded with tables, chairs, desks and cabinets that one could scarcely move around in them. Now, of course the Empire style was a craze, as well as those at Versailles, have very few pieces of furniture in them. They have the empty look that is just now so much in vogue. The craze was at its height, however, women soon realized that its formal, cheerless look was not what they wanted. Rooms that looked like that were a proper reflection of the full lives of to-day.

It was impossible to find anything else that would appropriately go with Empire furniture. The most undervalued taste in decoration it was evident that Empire could not be mixed with modern pieces. The only way in which the pressing influence of the Empire could be overcome was through filling up the rooms with pieces of the same kind. That may not have made them much more cheerful, but it at least prevented them from looking so empty, which was exactly the way they should have looked to be characteristic. Then the craze of silk for Empire furniture should be in light tints, and that made it unsuited to the needs of this year of grace. It is impossible to make any period room reflect the life of its occupants to-day.

Just as unsuited to our time is the Adam room. The chairs are uncomfortable, the sofas are as alarming to any but the light and airy, although the sofas are very strong and durable. Then pale green, pale pink and pale mauve satin brocade is a dangerous background for any man who has been sitting in a trolley car, and the sofa is not comfortable, but the smaller ones totter on tiny spindly legs.

What possible comfort can any but a very small person derive from sitting on a small Louis XVI chair with a gilded straw bottom? For a young girl, however, such a support is very suitable, and it would not be unsuitable for a man with a flowered velvet coat over his satin shirt clothes. But for a fat man even in evening dress such a perch is comic for spectators and agony for him.

The large upholstered chairs now used so much never existed in the time of the other furniture, but they are an entirely appropriate rebellion against the tyranny of the strict period and are much more comfortable than all the *bergeres* or *chaises longues* in the world, yet they were never dreamed of in the days of Louis XV. A strict adherence to the style of the period would have made them impossible. This is the superiority of the latitude which the decorator has when he gets out of the strict period.

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Colonial or American Empire, which was manufactured in the United States, is usually free from the ornate ornamentation and therefore blends well with furniture of any period. The upholstered chairs are usually done in a flowered or solid colored velvet that follows the color scheme of the room. In the use of Adam, or the French style of the schools mentioned, it is as impossible to have a room dark in color scheme as it is to decorate the furniture in that way. This particular more than anything else makes these periods so limited in their usefulness for modern decoration.

Judiciously combined with the patterns of the day, said the eclectic decorator, "the classic types of furniture have great value and are in fact almost indispensable. French, English or Italian rosewood may be used to add variety to a scheme of decoration and in that way they are absolutely suited to our present conditions, especially as this is an age in which we are borrowing from the art of all times and nations to enhance the inventions of our own day. A composite room is a room which is a true reflection of our taste to-day."

than a strictly period room can ever be."

The decorator who goes in for the period style regards himself as much more artistic than the decorator who merely seeks to make attractive looking living rooms suited to our civilization to-day.

Of course no decorator would ever design a Louis XV, or Louis XVI, or Empire room, for a house in which there were not to be formal apartments, nor would he be any more likely to supply with an Adam dining room one that did not have less elaborate apartments for the use of the family. The more elaborate rooms are intended for formal occasions and are not to be adapted to the decoration of such rooms.

The man who builds a ballroom in his house will presumably have all the other rooms in the house done in the style of a formal school of decoration for such an apartment than that invented by the French. Though designs were the outcome of the spirit of the time which was a time of gaiety, beauty and luxury. Such elements are better suited to a ballroom than any thing that might be invented by the conditions of the day.

A man with a room that represents exactly some period of decorative art has more than a decorative room. He has something as artistic as a beautiful picture or a porcelain. Of course the owner of a small house would be foolish to have his only room done in the style of a Louis XV. He would be ridiculous. In the same way the Adam rooms, which should be little used. On the other hand there is no more beautiful model for a room, when either they be living room, dining room or hallway. And Colonial bedrooms are more appropriate to our way of life than any other style of room. They are artistic little museums, forming very interesting reminders of our national life."

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